

SPRINGSTIMES

Your Sandy Springs News Source



Will the Atlanta area have sufficient water? This question is regularly asked in any regional planning sessions. The answer depends on many "ifs." Will the water level of Lake Lanier rise to normal full pool? Will the courts allow the Atlanta region to rely on the lake for its water supply, or will the mussels in Appalachicola Bay have precedence over our water needs? Will we get sufficient rain? Will there be any new reservoirs to serve our metro region?

With so many uncertainties water conservation is the only certain tool we have now to address a sufficient supply for the continued economic health of the Atlanta region. At recent Council meetings, the City of Sandy Springs has considered new measures that will help us all conserve water.

While most of us assume outside watering is our greatest water usage, actually it is toilet flushing that consumes the greatest percentage of water—35 percent of household water use. This fact presents us with the greatest possibility of conserving water by installing new commodes that need only 1.6-gallons per flush as opposed to the old ones consuming 3.5-7-gallons per flush. The retrofit program provides rebates to help us finance this retrofit.

To receive a rebate, Atlanta water/sewer customers must:

- Own/rent a residence that was built prior to 1993 and have fixtures not currently in compliance with current water efficiency plumbing code standards.
- Have a water account in good standing.
- Purchase and install a toilet from an approved list of 1.6- or 1.28-gallon per flush toilets.
- Provide the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District with their most recent water/sewer bill.
- Provide the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District with proof of purchase (showing make, model, flow rate and installation.)

There are other easy measures to help us conserve water, and the free kits to do so are available from the Atlanta Watershed Management Department or they will be available at City Hall in the near future. Included are a low-flow shower head easily installed by homeowners, toilet dye tablets to allow one to check whether the flushing mechanism is leaking and kitchen and bath faucet aerators that reduce water consumption from those sources.

The City of Sandy Springs has already mandated that new multifamily construction must include separate meters for each unit. Another change requires rain sensors on new installations of irrigation systems. (How infuriating is it to see sprinklers going on a rainy day when you have been extremely responsible on the watering restrictions!)

New car wash establishments will have to recycle the water they use. Fortunately, as an excellent promotion policy, most car washes have already installed these systems.

These and other measures are the easy steps in water conservation that should be adopted by everyone. More strenuous measures may be needed in the future, such as the recycling of our water. This does not refer to recycling your own water in your own house, but rather central recycling with water being returned to a new public treatment facility that then returns the water for consumption. Such new infrastructure would be very expensive, and it behooves everyone to take the easy steps outlined above to stretch our water supply as far as possible.

Mayor Eva Galambos, PhD
City of Sandy Springs



City's Crime Rate Drops in 2008

New Leadership & Quality Employees Keys to Success

The City boasts some pretty impressive figures but one of the most impressive lately is that there were no murders in 2008 and the overall crime rate dropped by eight percent last year. The numbers for rape, aggravated assault and thefts also fell when compared to last year's numbers. And further, since Sandy Spring's Police Department's inception on July 1, 2006, total Part 1 crimes have been reduced 13.92 percent.

"The drop in our crime rate can only be attributed to the quality of the employees making up the Sandy Springs Police Department combined with the increased community involvement in preventing crime," said Sandy Springs Chief of Police Terry Sult. "The police alone cannot keep crime in check but when the community and police work together we can be successful."

There was a slight upturn in robberies. The number of incidents rose from 149 to 161. The number of burglaries also rose

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Sult at Forefront of Police Department's Goals



Overall crime rate dropped by eight percent last year in Sandy Springs. Numbers for rape, aggravated assault and thefts also fell when compared to last year's numbers.

While only being in his position as Sandy Springs Chief of Police 150 days, Terry Sult has a definitive view of where he wants the Department to be going and what goals he wants to achieve. Starting out with overall crime rates being down 8 percent in the City, the Chief says he can't rest on his laurels—there's much to be done.

"The Sandy Springs Police Department (SSPD) is currently in the process of reorganizing to better align the department with neighborhoods and communities in Sandy Springs,"

Chief Sult said. "A geographic form of policing will be in place by late spring. The reorganization will provide for better collaboration through problem-solving partnerships with stakeholders in respective neighborhoods."

The philosophy of the Department is community problem-oriented policing, which incorporates the implementation of all methods and tools of quality policing. Within that philosophy the mission is, "to prevent crime and enforce law through problem-solving partnerships."

The chief adds that enhancements to the SSPD's Crime Analysis capacity will take place throughout the summer and likely evolve into a collaborative North Fulton area crime focused fusion center. These enhancements will include the ability for SSPD to track crime on a defined neighborhood level allowing for better opportunities to prevent crime as well as quick crime problem identification and mitigation.

"SSPD will become a leader in quality police leadership development and training bringing in the highest quality instructors, seminars and conferences recognized nationally and internationally as leaders in quality policing practices," continued Chief Sult. "These events will be offered to surrounding law enforcement and first responder agencies toward strengthening partnerships and to the betterment of the services across our region. We have been working in coordination with our Hospitality Board and these events should have a positive economic impact upon our hospitality community as well."

Another exciting development on the horizon is on August 1st our 911 Center is slated to open for the purpose of improving emergency response. This improved 911 Center will house both the Cities of Sandy Springs and Johns Creek first responders. The main focus of the 911 Center is reducing response times by minimizing caller hold time and caller processing time with improved technology and a properly resourced center with cutting edge technology and a highly trained staff.



Crimes are solved both on the streets and in the lab. Here, a Sandy Springs Crime Scene Analyst looks at evidence through a microscope.

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City's Crime Rate Drops in 2008

from 798 cases to 883 cases. Officers feel this is a sign of the economic times. Items being stolen came from cars and apartments and included flat screen TVs, global positioning systems (GPS), iPods, cell phones or small items that can be pawned quickly. The number of auto thefts remained relatively constant: 280 in 2007 and 277 in 2008.

Police urge the use of Neighborhood Watch Programs or the new Business Watch Program. "These programs have proven to be a deterrent," added Chief Sult. "They are a valuable tool in warding off would-be criminals and have been proven to be effective. There's no better deterrent than the people who live in their own neighborhood or work in close proximity of each other to keep an eye on things. It really helps."

These statistics are reported and measured by the guidelines set forth under the FBI's Uniform Crime Report.

Deadline for Business Licenses Approaching

Businesses in the City of Sandy Springs have until March 31, 2009, to renew their business tax certificates by submitting a business occupational tax application with full payment of all fees and taxes due. The City mailed the renewal application the last week in December.

Failure to receive a renewal application does not relieve a business of its responsibility to pay the business tax by the deadline. Late payments are subject to a 10 percent penalty and interest of 1.5 percent a month. For more information or if you have questions, contact the Revenue Division by calling 770-730-5600.

Recreation and Parks Getting Creative with Program Offerings for Summer Camp

With warmer weather approaching and the school year soon drawing to a close for summer break, now is a perfect time to plan for children's fun spring and summer activities. The Sandy Springs Recreation and Parks Department is now offering new spring courses and a variety of fun, instructional activity and sports camp programs throughout the summer. Summer camp accommodates children ages three - 14 and begins June 1 and continues until August 28.

Camp offerings for preschool children will include Mighty Mites and Preschool Gymnastics Camps. Youth ages 6 and older can participate in gymnastics, ancient Greek sports, Egyptian sports, Doyelson storytelling, photography, tennis, after camp care and Artsy Smartsy camps. Registration for summer camps begins on April 6 and participants may now register for classes or programs online at www.activenet.active.com/sandyspringsga.

For more information on the Sandy Springs Recreation and Parks Department's summer camp offerings and other year-round programs, please call the Hammond Park Community Building at 404.252.6310 or visit the Department at 705 Hammond Drive, Sandy Springs, Ga., 30328. For more information on programs and their descriptions, please visit www.sandyspringsga.org and click on City Departments, then Recreation and Parks. Registration for current youth and adult programming is ongoing.



Camp offerings range from Mighty Mites to gymnastics to ancient Greek sports to Doyelson storytelling to photography and Artsy Smartsy camps.

Lucy Hall-Gainer Named Humanitarian Award Winner



Mayor Eva Galambos (right) presents Lucy Hall-Gainer with the Third Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award for her work on breaking the addictive cycle.

Sandy Springs resident, Lucy Hall-Gainer, has been named the 2009 recipient of the Humanitarian Award. This is the third time the City has given the award that embodies the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and recognizes an individual for his or her humanitarian contributions to society and philanthropic work. A volunteer committee made the selection.

As the youngest of seven siblings, Lucy Hall-Gainer barely knew her mother, who died of alcoholism when Lucy was six. But the impressions her mother made on her life inspired her to reach out to addicted women and women with children so that they could bridge the gap from troubled lives to become independent and self-supporting. Today, her dream is a reality with the founding of Mary Hall Freedom House (MHFH), named in memory of her mother.

A graduate of public schools in her native New York, Hall majored in human services at State University of Brockport and Schenectady College. She moved to Atlanta where she took a job as a resident counselor for a non-profit organization, working with children who were wards of the state. She also took a job caring for the family of a prominent businessman, who offered her a chance to start her own business if she'd work for the family for a year. At the end of the year, she presented a business proposal to her employer

The event featured choral tributes, guest choirs and guest of honor and keynote speaker, Dr. Myldred P. Hill. Hill is a leading educator from Fort Valley State University.



Traffic Services Manager Jeff Messer (left) and Traffic Superintendent Chris Waters are able to study and respond to traffic patterns in the City's state of the art Traffic Management Center.

Traffic Management Center is First in Class

One of the chief goals the Mayor and City Councilmembers have is making traffic better in the City of Sandy Springs. To that end, the Traffic Management Center (TMC) came online in May of 2008. With each passing day, the TMC becomes more robust. To date, 13 cameras are online along State Route 9 (Roswell Road), which feed real time traffic data to a Web site the public can view from www.sandyspringsga.org. A comprehensive fiber optic network is also being installed which also feeds information back to the TMC.

"Our staff can't be everywhere at every moment of the day," said Jeff Messer, Manager of the Traffic Services Division for Sandy Springs. "The TMC allows us to not only view the intersection from all directions but it also gives us the capability to adjust the timing of the traffic signals. We hope to have about 55 more cameras up and 35 more miles of fiber across the City to link into the network."

The voice-activated computer system in the TMC responds to Messer and Traffic Superintendent Chris Waters. When given a command a bank of monitors come to life and show traffic conditions across the City. "The nerve center of the TMC holds computers that show directional views from the field cameras and record video from the intersections. It's not for traffic enforcement. The goal of the TMC is to enable rapid signalization adjustments in response to traffic incidents. If we do this, we help the Mayor and Council achieve their goal of making traffic better across the city," Messer concluded.

Sandy Springs Fire Rescue Cooling for a Cure

Sandy Springs Fire Rescue Department (SSFRD), Emory University Department of Emergency Medicine, Saint Joseph's Hospital and Rural Metro Ambulance (RMA) began this year with an effort to save cardiac arrest patients from a fate that may be worse than death: loss of neurological function. SSFRD is the state's first department to provide the cooling treatment to patients even before they reach the hospital.



Sandy Springs first responders are trained to bring induced hypothermia to patients in the field, which is cutting edge and new to the region.

"While emergency responders are already trained to provide care to cardiac arrest victims, and hypothermia is a proven therapy, bringing this to the field is cutting edge," says Matthew Bitner, MD, an Emory University emergency physician and deputy medical director, for Sandy Springs Fire Rescue. "Rather than wait, the emergency responder will assess the patient and, if appropriate, initiate the iced saline immediately to lower the patient's body temperature. This is very low risk and the potential benefit is significant."

"In certain cases of cardiac arrest, a sufficient cardiac rhythm is restored. In these cases, brain damage may be avoided by reducing the body core temperature by about eight degrees Fahrenheit. This technique minimizes brain oxygen consumption and minimizes neurological injury," says Susan Kill, director of the emergency department at Saint Joseph's Hospital.

Sandy Springs Fire Rescue personnel have had extensive training in beginning the cooling treatment on cardiac arrest patients. Three Sandy Springs Quick Response Vehicles and one advanced life support fire truck, have the necessary equipment. For the duration of the pilot program, Rural Metro ambulances will take patients on the hypothermia treatment to Saint Joseph's, where the emergency team has been trained to respond and will continue the treatment technique.

"In emergency medicine, we are always implementing new techniques to save patients," says Dr. Bitner. "This procedure requires a commitment from both emergency responders and the hospital so we are very excited to be partnering with Saint Joseph's."

If a patient's pulse can be restarted quickly enough from cardiac arrest – within a matter of minutes – they can recover relatively unscathed. If not, they become comatose and suffer a cascading series of injuries to the brain which will frequently lead to permanent brain damage or death. Inducing moderate cooling of the body – within six hours – for a period of up to 24 hours, followed by gradual warming, slows cerebral metabolism and seems to reduce such traumatic brain injuries.

Contact Us

Sandy Springs Web site: www.sandyspringsga.org

Sandy Springs Citizen Response Center: 770.730.5600